

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 176  
By Cochran

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of native Tennessean Mr.  
Frank Merritt of Elizabethton.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely passing of Mr. Frank Merritt; and

WHEREAS, Frank Merritt was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Frank Merritt served with acumen and alacrity as an educator, historian, and author, in which positions he earned the respect of his students, peers and readers alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, at a very early age, Mr. Merritt strove for excellence, becoming the Valedictorian of his high school; he turned his enthusiasm of education into a career by becoming a teacher and serving as an instructor at Elizabethton High School in Tennessee and Cocoa High School and Brevard Community College in Florida. He also served with distinction as Principal at Hampton High School; and

WHEREAS, as a way to continue his love of learning, Mr. Merritt served as the Carter County historian and wrote several local history books. He is credited with preserving much of the Carter County local history through his writings; and

WHEREAS, this valiant and honorable man served with bravery as a member of the Army Air Corps in World War II to protect the freedom of the Nation he so loved; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Frank Merritt was an active and devout member of the Valley Forge Christian Church, which he served faithfully for many years as the church organist; and

WHEREAS, he had a passion for music which he expressed in his church and in the classroom as a teacher of music; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Frank Merritt was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, this hard working man was preceded in death by his parents, John and Minnie Grindstaff Merritt, his loving wife and high school sweetheart, Rosalie May Merritt, and his sister, Mae Merritt Wilson; and

WHEREAS, Frank Merritt enjoyed the loving companionship of his family and was the proud father of sons and daughters-in-laws, Carl R. Merritt, Les F. and Sandra Merritt, and John D. and Billie Merritt; daughters and sons-in-law, C. Elaine Merritt-Rourke and Dr. Pat Rourke, and Laurel and Michael Adkins; and

WHEREAS, he will be deeply missed by brothers-in-law, Dr. Joseph C. May, Dr. Floyd Earl May, Dr. Herbert Collins, Lyle DeWitt, and J.D. Boone; and sisters-in-law, Bertha Lou Boone, Hilda Collins, Joy Bernshausen, Norma May, and Loretta May; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable man was the delighted grandfather of eight grandchildren, Tammy, Paige, Stacey, Todd, Keith, Emily, Christopher, and John Michael, and five great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Merritt will be remembered as an excellent and dedicated student, teacher, musician, historian, father, husband, neighbor, and friend to many who excelled in all areas; and

WHEREAS, Frank Merritt leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Mr. Frank Merritt, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Frank Merritt.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.